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### UM Bureau of Government Research receives \$26,000 for voter review of local government forms

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UM BUREAU OF GOVERNMENT RESEARCH  
RECEIVES \$26,000 FOR VOTER REVIEW  
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORMS

MISSOULA--

The Bureau of Government Research (BGR) at the University of Montana in Missoula has received a \$26,000 federal grant to assist Montana citizens in the voter review of local government forms required by the State Constitution.

Article XI of the Montana Constitution requires voters in all Montana cities and counties to decide by 1976 whether to retain their present forms of government or to adopt some alternative form.

To assist citizens in the review process, the BGR's Montana Voter Review of Forms of Local Government Project will prepare four citizen guides, two case studies of local government in Montana, and a manual for local study commissioners who will be elected in November of this year. This program is partially funded by Community Service Programs, Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Dr. Peter Koehn, project director, said the citizen guides will describe the voter review process, optional forms of local government, self-government powers for local communities and charter-writing. The guides and monographs will complement the short brochure on local government review and the comprehensive "Handbook of Forms of Local Government" that are being prepared by the Voter Review Project under an earlier Title I grant. The first of the new guides will appear in September 1974. All four citizen guides will be printed and distributed by the Cooperative Extension Service, Montana State University, Bozeman.

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Koehn also said that staff of the Voter Review Project would be available to assist local study commissions in western Montana in the use of materials developed under the BGR's grants. In all matters, the project staff will work closely with local officials and their associations, the newly formed State Commission on Local Government, and citizen groups. Koehn, assistant professor of political science at UM, has special training in local government and administration.

Dr. James Lopach will serve the project as director of field research and publications. Lopach, a Great Falls native, has worked as director of field research on the Voter Review Project during this past year.

Koehn and Lopach coauthored an article entitled "The Impending Review of Local Government in Montana," which appeared in the Winter 1974 issue of the "Montana Business Quarterly."

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